

## **GPS Operations**

The Department of Transportation is working closely with Air Force Space Command regarding GPS operations that relate to the Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and other required services. Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) is the Department of Defense (DoD) executive agent for the operation, maintenance, and sustainment of GPS.

Organizations and activities that support GPS operations include:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Space Operations Squadron (2SOPS) is responsible for the Operational Control Segment to include the Master Control Station (MCS). Along with the daily operation of the GPS constellation, the MCS is responsible for issuing Notice Advisory to Navstar Users (NANUs) and U.S. Notice to Airman (NOTAMs). These notices are the prime conduits for information about the GPS constellation, which includes information about scheduled and non-scheduled satellite outages and other related GPS information.
- 2SOPS is also responsible for the operation of the GPS Support Center (GSC). The GSC is the DoD focal point for coordinating issues relevant to the performance of the GPS constellation. Some of their support activities include, the development of performance predictions; and the coordination, analysis, and resolution of outage and anomaly reports. The GSC works with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in supporting civil GPS users. The USCG Navigation Center represents the maritime and other GPS users, while the FAA National Operations Control Center represents the aviation GPS users.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force (14AF) Operations Staff, supported by various organizations, is responsible for coordinating activities to support the sustainment of the GPS constellation. They chair the GPS Constellation Sustainment Assessment Team (CSAT). The CSAT is responsible for consolidating constellation performance and health assessments to make recommendations regarding GPS launches, as well as recommended placement within the constellation. These recommendations are made to the 14AF Commander, through the Current Launch Schedule Review Board, who ultimately approves the CSAT recommendations.

The Department of Transportation Liaison to Air Force Space Command works with these organizations and participates in the activities described above. The DOT Liaison represents the interest of all civil GPS users. Additionally, the DOT Liaison works with Joint Chief of Staff and U.S. Strategic Command organizations to assure continuity across diverse GPS operational interests.

Useful Links:

- U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center <<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>>
- FAA GPS Products Team <<http://gps.faa.gov>>